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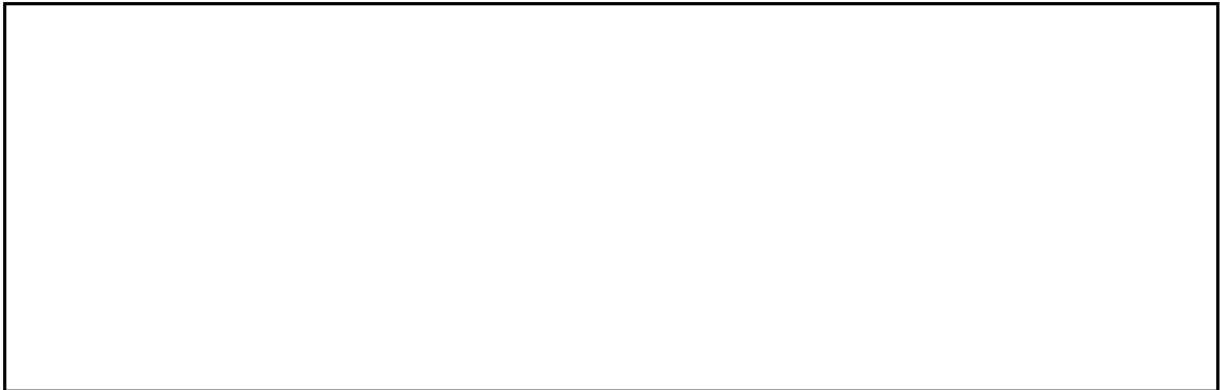


15 April 1965

MEMORANDUM

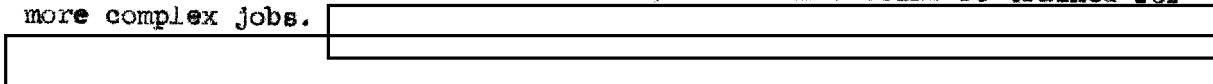
SUBJECT: Manning Requirement for SA-2 Sites

1. We have no direct evidence of the minimum number of trained Soviet SAM personnel that would be needed initially to achieve a limited firing capability at an SA-2 site, assuming untrained North Vietnamese personnel filled positions not requiring extensive schooling. The exact training requirements for each position in an SA-2 crew are not that well known. However, we believe on the basis of indirect evidence that the number may lie somewhere between 60 and 75.



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2. The normal Soviet SA-2 site manning of 125-150 men has very few slots which could be assumed immediately by untrained personnel. The most logical places for untrained Vietnamese to be utilized at first would be in the motor pool (totalling about 30 men), in the mess hall (3 or 4 men), and perhaps in a few of the 30 or so enlisted men positions on the launcher crews. As time went on, Vietnamese could be trained for more complex jobs.



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3. The total of 125-150 men for an SA-2 site probably includes enough duplication to allow two crews to alternate in manning essential operating positions for extended alerts. Therefore a somewhat lower number--possibly as few as 75--could probably maintain the site in a ready condition for brief intervals.


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4. It should be realized that an SA-2 site manned by a bare minimum of trained personnel could not sustain a high level of operational readiness for more than a few hours a day. Moreover, even a site fully manned by highly trained personnel could not maintain its equipment in firing condition for more than a few days without the services of the technical support battalion at regimental level. SA-2 sites are simply not geared to operate independently. The technical support battalion, which usually supports 4 SA-2 launch sites, normally consists of about 180 men, at least half of whom are highly trained maintenance specialists.

5. There is also some question as to whether Soviet SA-2 crews would consider engaging in combat operations with inexperienced North Vietnamese assisting. 

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